



Penobscot EMA

What's new???

Penobscot Emergency Management Agency
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After the Ice Storm, How to Lend A Hand

"There's no harm in hoping for the best as long as you're prepared for the worst."

— [Stephen King](#),

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The December 2013 winter ice storm has departed; it left over 100,000 without power followed by bitter cold temperatures and little melting.

Power utilities applied all of their own and mutual aid resources to restoration, but in some areas, power was off into Christmas Day and for days after. The hardest hit areas included Hancock, Washington, Waldo, Knox, Penobscot, Kennebec and Androscoggin Counties.

Due to a lack of heat and power, some individuals and families were forced to leave their homes. Emergency shelters and warming centers were set up across the hardest hit areas.

Residents were encouraged to call 211 for information about assistance and resources in their community.

In Penobscot County, the Red Cross opened a Regional Shelter at The Brewer Auditorium, where it just so happened that Penobscot County recently held a shelter operations exercise at the auditorium. As a result the operation, opening, registration, meals, overnight accommodation and closing all went well without a hitch.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering go to www.volunteermaine.org.

How you can help

Despite your generous instinct to "do something to help," it is easy to make matters worse by rushing to the scene (called "self-deploying") or collecting items for which there is no storage or distribution system. Wait for instructions from County or Town offices or local organizations in the impacted areas. Emergency response will determine what is needed both for volunteers and supplies, then put out a call for assistance. This may take a few hours or a few days.

Be Ready to Volunteer

Register with VolunteerMaine.org as a [Disaster Service Volunteer](#). Be sure to indicate if you have any specific trainings, such as the American Red Cross Shelter training.

Already registered with VolunteerMaine.org? [Log in and go to "Your Account"](#) to update your contact information and "Disaster Skills." Be sure to update any certificates or relevant training you may have.

Donate for Relief and Recovery

Cash is the preferred method because it offers voluntary agencies the most flexibility in obtaining the most-needed resources and pumps money into the local economy to help businesses recover as well. Remember, unsolicited donated goods such as used clothing, miscellaneous household items and mixed or perishable require agencies to redirect valuable resources away from providing services to sort, package, transport, warehouse, and distribute items that may not meet the needs of disaster survivors.



Our Office Has Moved
We are now located at:

69 Hammond St.
(Next to the Bangor Post Office)

Daylight Savings March 9th



Don't forget to
Spring Ahead!

Governor LePage Nominates Bruce Fitzgerald to Serve as Director of MEMA

February 6, 2014
Governor's Office

AUGUSTA— Governor Paul R. LePage announced today that he has selected Bruce Fitzgerald of South China to serve as the Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

“Bruce has distinguished himself as an expert in the emergency management field through his many years at MEMA, and I am pleased to nominate him as the Director,” said Governor LePage. “Bruce is the right man to manage the agency in times of emergency.”

Fitzgerald joined the MEMA staff in 2003, beginning as a program manager for Homeland Security grants, progressing to the Homeland Division Director and then serving as Acting Director. He served at MEMA through numerous state emergencies and Presidentially declared disasters, notably during Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the St. Patrick's Day, Mother's Day and Patriot's Day storms in 2007 and more recently, during Hurricanes Irene and Sandy. He holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Maine.

“I'm pleased and honored to have been selected by the Governor for this position. I look forward to continued service with MEMA leading this important agency“ said Fitzgerald. “I am confident that the professionals of the Maine Emergency Management Agency will continue to provide the high level of service to Maine's citizens to which we have all become accustomed.”

The MEMA Director reports to The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans' and Emergency Management (DVEM) and directly to the Governor during times of emergency. Fitzgerald's nomination is subject to final confirmation by The Maine Senate.

New Website for School Emergency Planning

The U.S. Department of Education's Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) has launched a new website for their Technical Assistance Center. The website hosts information on developing, maintaining, and enhancing high-quality emergency operations plans (EOPs) and comprehensive emergency management planning efforts for schools and institutions of higher education (IHEs).

Also included is the recently release federal guidance on emergency operations plan (EOP) development, one each for IHEs and K-12. Each describes the recommended six-step planning process and key topics supporting EOP development, such as information sharing, school climate, active shooter scenarios, and psychological first aid.

Additional resources available include: National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance, trainings by request, virtual trainings, and a virtual tool box developed by school and IHE emergency management.

Source: [REMS](#)

Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools
Technical Assistance Center
<http://rems.ed.gov>

Maine Prepares Tips

Keep the silent killer out of your home

To avoid CO poisoning:

- Never run generators indoors, including garages, basement, crawlspaces and sheds.
- Get to fresh air right away if you start to feel dizzy or weak. Call 911.
- Install a CO detector in your home near where people sleep.
- Make sure heater vents and chimneys are clear of dirt and debris.

⚠ DANGER	
Using a generator indoors CAN KILL YOU IN MINUTES. Generator exhaust contains carbon monoxide. This is a poison you cannot see or smell.	
 <p>NEVER use inside a home or garage, EVEN IF doors and windows are open.</p>	 <p>Only use OUTSIDE and far away from windows, doors, and vents.</p>

Is Use of Amateur Radio in an Emergency Still Valid?

The answer is YES, amateur radio can make your communications better during a crisis when “normal” modes of communication have failed.

There are many articles showing successful use of “amateurs” in crisis situations – just search “ham radio use in emergencies.” One recent example is the role of amateur radio during the Boston Marathon.....after the bombs went off and cell phone and other traditional modes of communication failed due to saturation of the network, amateur radio worked and worked well.

Amateur Radio Operators were already on site providing communications for the Marathon (something they have done for years.) When the bombs went off they were asked to perform other tasks and, from all reports they performed well.

Amateur radio can transmit email using their radios even if local internet, cell phones, and social media is completely down, and they can get that email to the Internet (perhaps a nearby city or even across the country) by using other radio operators to relay the data. They can also keep certain details of your scene secure using this method (maybe you do not want the number of victims transmitted over voice communications, for example.)

While amateur radio frequencies can be scanned and their voice communications heard on the scanners their digital communications described above cannot easily be intercepted.

Our amateur radio organization (an ARES – Amateur Radio Emergency Service – group) has used digital modes to send names and conditions of “victims” during drills. We are able to send that information from the field to a central location and we can set up relays “on the fly” to get the message to the intended recipient.

Amateur radio operators can bring their own antennas, deploy those antennas and can communicate to stations hundreds, if not thousands of miles away and help you get more assistance. Radio Operators can even build an antenna, with wire and other common, easy to find materials so they can get their signal out.

Amateur radio can operate from any 12 volt battery (Got a spare vehicle that runs? They can use that vehicle to charge the battery and can connect their equipment to that vehicle’s battery and run as long as there is fuel available to run the vehicle and keep the battery charged) Amateur radio operators are innovative and flexible and they can communicate for hours, if not days, getting the signal out for you and your team.

Amateur radio operators are self-contained and can deploy their own vehicles or their group’s communication vehicles when requested by a local DEM or law enforcement or government agency. Amateur radio operators in the field can be supported by radio operators at their homes, in an EOC, or even miles away from your “crisis” location. Amateur radio operators are flexible, innovative and solve communications problems through their knowledge of their equipment and their experience.

Amateur radio operators affiliated with ARES or other groups have undergone a clearance process with their local law enforcement and emergency management agency, have ICS training from FEMA, have first responder training, understand the incident command structure and are your communicators when on site during your emergency. They log their communications, create clear and concise messages, transmit those messages and make those messages available to your organizational structure.

(Continued on next page)

Is Use of Amateur Radio in an Emergency Still Valid? (cont.)

Amateur radio operators understand they are not your PIO. They do not talk to the media or the general public. They understand the importance of maintaining radio silence and communicating only when necessary and they know they work for you not the other way around.

Amateur radio operators are amateurs only by definition, and because the FCC licenses them on the amateur radio frequencies. But, amateur radio operators can operate on your frequencies when authorized and, in fact, many of them have purchased and programmed commercial radios with your frequencies on them just in case they are needed by you. They are your communications link when everything else has failed.

Amateur radio operators plan for failure, drill for success and are ready to be called out when needed. So, is there still a valid need for amateur radio in your crisis? Yes, if your power is out, your radios don't work, you are disconnected from the internet, your cell phones don't work and/or your SMS is failing and you need a team of "professionals" who can help you communicate to your teams.

Connect with your local amateur radio operators, look for ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) and go to one of their meetings, ask to see their capabilities, look at their equipment bays and their radio rooms and present them with a scenario. They will rise to the challenge and surprise you.

By
Mark Challender
NG2G, Whatcom County, WA ARES

Source: <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/emergency-blogs/crisis-comm/Amateur-radio-plays-important-061813.html>

Penobscot County has an active RACES/ARES team. Contact EMA for more information.



What is a "Major Emergency"

A "major emergency" is an extraordinary event in a community, caused by a natural or man made hazard or public health threat that results in activation of the local emergency plan and response by multiple organizations, possibly over a prolonged period of time.

Events such as structure fires, traffic accidents or hazmat responses are not considered to be major emergencies, unless they trigger the declaration of a local State of Emergency, a call for significant mutual aid outside the community's normal traditional mutual aid area or the activation of the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement.

Training Opportunities

Community Mass Care & Emergency Assistance (G108)

Date: May 28 & 29, 2014

Time: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Location: Jeff's Catering 15 Littlefield Way, Brewer, Maine

For more information, contact:

Mike Grant, MEMA

624-4460 or 800-452-8735

michael.f.grant@maine.gov

Water & Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) (Series Free to EMA staff, must reserve seating)

Incident Command

Dates: Course 1; Thursday March 13th

Course 2; Friday March 21st

Course 3; Thursday April 17th

Course 4; Thursday April 24th

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Location: The Fireside Inn & Suites 1777 Washington St. (Exit 75 off of Turnpike in Auburn)

Register: Life Safety Specialist, Inc. 207-744-0135

email: raylss@megalink.net

Detailed course description: lifesafetyspecialists.com

Emergency Exercise Design (G139)

Date: March 26 & 27, 2014

Time: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Location: MEMA, 45 Commerce Dr. off Rt. 27, North Augusta

For more information, contact:

Mike Grant, MEMA

624-4460 or 800-452-8735

michael.f.grant@maine.gov

Incident Command System: Intermediate (ICS300)

**Prerequisite ICS 200 (Basic)*

Date: April 2 & 3, 2014

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Location: Houlton Public Safety building, Military St. Houlton

Contact: Darren Woods, 493-4328

Mitigation For Emergency Managers

**Prerequisite FEMA's Independent Study (IS) 393.a course, Introduction to Hazard Mitigation*

Date: May 13-15, 2014

Time: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Location: MEMA, 45 Commerce Dr. off Rt. 27, North Augusta

For more information, contact:

Mike Grant, MEMA

624-4460 or 800-452-8735

michael.f.grant@maine.gov



Preparedness Conference

The 6th Annual Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, April 22 and 23, 2014 at the Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, Maine.

Draft Agenda Posted for Preparedness Conference: Register Now!

<http://www.maineprepares.com/conference>

There is no charge for registration.

A highlight of the Conference will be the two plenary sessions taking place on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Tuesday, [nationally recognized security expert Michael Dorn](<http://www.safehavensinternational.org/about-us/michael-dorn/>) will speak on School and Workplace Security.

On Wednesday, a panel of responders and emergency managers from Maine and Québec will speak about the cross-border response to the train derailment and fire in Lac Mégantic last summer.

More than 40 workshops and demonstrations are scheduled over the two days of the Conference.

Online registration for participants **and exhibitors** [is open now](<https://www.regonline.com/partners2014>). There is no charge for attending the conference. There is a small fee for exhibitors, but no charge for not-for-profit and government exhibitors.

Exercise Schedule

Bangor International Airport

May 31st—Full Scale Exercise

Lincoln Public Safety & PVH

May 3rd —HazMat Exercise

Husson University

June 11th — Full Scale Active Shooter

FMI: Contact Penobscot EMA: 945-4570